THE POTRERO VIEW

April, 1995 Volume XXVI, No. 3 FREE

Vote Stalled On Rehab Of Public Housing

By Michael Mattis

Public housing on Potrero Hill was originally built in 1941 and its renovation or demolition in the near future is currently under discussion. The housing in photo above is located on Connecticut Street. *Ruth Passen photo*

With $50 million dollars in federal money on the line, the San Francisco Housing Authority Commission voted March 23 to stall a controversial measure that aims to rehabilitate or replace the worn buildings of the Potrero Terrace and Potrero Annex public housing units on the Hill.

The 4-2 vote tabled a measure that would have retained architects the Housing Authority needed to apply for the $50 million 'HOPE VI' grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The grant application deadline is April 17.

According to Housing Authority spokesperson John Shanley, Housing Commissioners Sulu Palega, Jan Allen, Haidie Redd and Karen Huggins (who lives in Potrero Terrace) voted to table the measure because of concerns about resident relocation during reconstruction.

A residential planning meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 to discuss the grant application with Potrero Terrace and Annex residents. But because of the March 23 vote, the meeting was cancelled. Public housing residents had not been informed of either the vote or the meeting's cancellation, and residents who showed up for the meeting were angry about not being notified.

Some Terrace and Annex residents are suspicious about the reconstruction plan. "If we move off this property," said one 22-year Potrero Annex resident who preferred to remain annonymous, "they're gonna take it and sell it. Men in suits with bright eyes have been coming around for years asking 'who owns this property?'"

"There's nothing wrong with this house," she said. "When the earthquake came nothing moved. These are all pre-fab, they can repair things without tearing them down." Potrero Terrace's tile roofs are currently being replaced.

The concern of residents about their fate under a relocation program was not alleviated by a recent Housing Authority document that claimed, "There will be plenty of alternatives for relocation: Section 8 Certificates or vouchers will be available...subsidized housing managed by a non-profit outfit, and through a transfer to another public residential development of your choice."

The HOPE (Home Ownership for People Everywhere) grant programs, which began during the 1980s under then-Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Jack Kemp, aimed to move public housing toward private individual ownership, noted Shanley.

However, Shanley said, the HOPE VI program was not designed to facilitate a move to private ownership.

HOPE I provided grant monies to create the Resident Management Corporations, which act as private non-profit management companies made up of public housing residents. The RMC's were intended as a preliminary phase that would move toward a resident-ownership goal. This has not yet happened.

At View press time, Housing Authority representatives indicated the Commission might take another vote on the issue of accepting the $50 million federal grant.

Huge Home Depot Facility Proposed for Mission Bay: Increased Traffic, Project Size Worry Hill Neighbors

By Judy Baston

A proposal to build a massive Home Depot/Expo Design Center on the Mariposa Street side of the Mission Bay development is causing increasing concern among residents and business people on Potrero Hill.

With the proposed facility standing between Potrero Hill and the central part of Mission Bay north of 16th Street, it would be like a sign that says "keep out — don't even walk into the Mission Bay project," charged Hill resident Anna Domanski. "We won't even see one little piece of green that says, 'Come in and enjoy," she said at the March 28 meeting of the Potrero Boosters and Merchants Assn.

In addition, two owners of businesses right by the proposed Home Depot site — Keith Gentne of Center Hardware on Mariposa Street and Jim Fregosi of the Fregosi Paint Co. on Pennsylvania Avenue — expressed strong skepticism that the Mariposa Street offramp from I-280 could handle the thousands of automobiles the Home Depot would be expected to attract. (With a Home Depot already in Colma, sponsors of the project estimate that possibly three-fourths of the facility's patrons might come from the north and enter from Third or 16th Streets.)

Even though a development agreement had been signed by the City and Mission Bay's Catellus four years ago, spelling out details hashed out over a decade of debate, hearings, and community involvement, virtually nothing has happened around the site since then.

While there has been preliminary discussion of a sports complex in Mission Bay, as well as UC San Francisco medical research facility, little has happened in those areas and the Home Depot proposal appears to be the first solid plan for Mission Bay. Project Director Kirsten Magary has asked the City for an expedited hearing schedule that would get through the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors by the June deadline Catellus claims Home Depot is giving them. "If Home Depot doesn't come in, "Magary told the March 28 Potrero Hill session, "we'll go away from this site and go work on something else."

Catellus is also asking the City to exempt them from several key provisions of the development agreement — requirements that on beginning Mission Bay construction, Catellus kick in money towards off-site affordable housing and an economic development fund for the city, as well as the requirement that investigation and remediation of possible toxic hazards be undertaken for the entire Mission Bay site before any construction begins.

Magary claims other toxic investigations have already taken place around the perimeter of the project and largely what remains to be investigated is the center — at considerably less cost than what had been in the agreement. She told the Hill meeting Catellus would post $3.9 million to investigate and remediate 25 acres south of 16th Street, even though the Home Depot facility would cover only 10 acres.

But community activists concerned with the toxic hazard issue are not satisfied. Diane Nygard, Potrero Hill Representative to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Mission Bay Hazardout Materials Investigation and Remediation Program, reported last month to the Potrero League of Active Neighbors (PLAN) that her committee had identified a number of areas of concern: What is the long term clean-up monitoring risk to the City if the financial assurances are reduced? Since housing was linked to office development, will any housing be built without office development? Shouldn't there be a new Environmental Impact Report?

The City Planning Dept.'s Alec Bash, who had been involved in the years of talks that led to the 1991 development agreement, acknowledged some Potrero Hill residents' concerns. He noted that a new traffic study is currently underway to analyze the Home Depot proposal. And stressing that the 1991 agreement was reached with the involvement of a number of neighborhood activists — including many from Potrero Hill -- Bash emphasized, "the community of San Francisco has the power to stop this project if it wants to."

GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (April 6) with members of the San Francisco Police Department, to discuss issues of public concern. The April meeting will focus on "Narcotics Enforcement & Prosecution," led by S. F. Police Captain Gregg Corrales. All meetings are held in the Southwest Community Facility, 1800 Oakdale Ave. at Phelps St.; 7-8:30 p.m.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets the second Monday of the month, (April 10) from 6-7 p.m. Meetings, held at the Center, 1050 Wisconsin St., are open to the public.

Potrero Hill Parents Assn. meets on the second Tuesday (April 11) at The Connecticut Yankee, 17th & Connecticut Sts. at 6:30 p.m. The Spring Celebratioin takes place Saturday April 15, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Jackson Park & Rec Center, Mariposa & Arkansas Sts. Call 282-7425 for more info.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the second Tuesday of each month (April 11) at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 Dellaro St.; 7 p.m. Jim Clarke, Secretary of the State Democratic Party, will speak on "Reinventing the California Democratic Party."

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets the third Wednesday of each month (April 19) at 7:30 p.m. This will be a meeting of the Executive Committee (membership meetings are in alternate months). Call Elizabeth, 826-6359 for location or to add a subject to the agenda.

S.F. General Hospital Community Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 13, at 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Carr Auditorium, 22nd and San Bruno Sts.

Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants meet the last Tuesday of the month (April 25) at the Potrero Library meeting room 1616 20th St., 7 p.m.

Friends of McKinley Square is changing the schedule and place for its meetings. For this month's date and location, call Joan Anthony, 821-7279.

ISA Girl Hoopsters Take City Crown, Lose in State

International Studies Academy's Lady Cobras basketball team, winners of the City crown, ended their season March 8, losing to Campolindo High of Moraga in the CIF Northern California Regional Division IV girls basketball championships. Campolindo went on to win the title game.

The semifinal match pitted the S.F. Academic Athletic Association Player of the Year and girls All-American, I.S.A.'s Jamie Redd, against the East Bay Player of the Year, Campo's Tracy Morris. Redd scored 30 to Morris' 35.

Potrero Hill's I.S.A. ended its best season ever at 28-3. It dominated A.A.A. play, their winning margin over their opponents averaging over 40 points. They won one game 102-18. In another, Redd tanked 42 points.

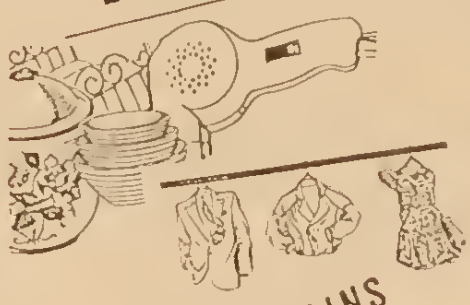
Cobras Coach Verna Castro praised Redd's play this year: "She is a good decision maker. She has range, power to the basket, and a good outside game."

Capably backing Redd were her co-captains Deanna Lockridge, starting center and Jennifer Tango, starting off-guard. A deep bench included Celestial Corridorn, Courtney Fields, Teresa Liu, Sarah Muller and Jocelyn Thompson.

I.S.A.'s assistant coaches were Ron White and Glenn Castro. — V.A.

Captain Jamie Redd of the I.S.A. Lady Cobras city champion basketball team has been named to the girls' high school All-American team by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

SATURDAY
APRIL 15
FLEA MARKET & Bazaar



FOOD

BARGAINS

10 A.M. - 4 P.M.
Space: 6x6' $10.00
CALL 826-8080
Potrero Hill
Neighborhood House
953 DeHaro Street

Potrero Hill's International Studies Academy city champion girls' basketball team with its coaches. The Lady Cobras posted a 28-3 season record, losing in the semi-final game at the CIF Northern California Regional Division IV Championships.
Vos Arnautoff photos

THE POTRERO VIEW

™ Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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LIBRARY NEWS

POTRERO BRANCH
1616 20th St. 695-6640

Closed Monday
Tuesday 1 - 6 pm
Wednesday 1 - 8 pm
Thurs., Fri., & Sat. 1 - 6 pm

40 YEARS —MY FEET IS ACHIN'

If you enjoyed celebrating the 40th Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition by dancing to the music of The Billy Dunn Dance Band at the April 1 reception here, you'll be happy to know that the band and its new album, "My Feet is Achin'," was featured by entertainment commentator Rochelle Metcalf on radio station KDIA recently. The exhibition will remain at the library until April 29. Don't miss it!

MAKE NEW FRIENDS BUT KEEP THE OLD DEPT

New faces among library staff include Julio Medina, the new Adult Services Librarian, who comes to Potrero from the Mission Branch. Julio's interests include computer technology and chocolate, not necessarily in that order. Also new to Potrero is Craig Caldwell, Library Page, who has been working at the Oakland Public Library Main Youth Room. Craig is an art student, and does sound technology for musicians.

Nell Jehu, who has worked at Potrero as a page for more than seven years, is being promoted to the position of Assistant Library Technician, and will be graduating from California College of Arts and Crafts this Spring. Nell's art work can be seen around the library in the form of displays and flyers such as the Artists Exhibition flyer. Like those of others who live or work on Potrero Hill, paintings by Nell can be found in the exhibition itself.

We are very proud of our staff, which also includes Library Technician Amelia Martin, Children's Librarian and Branch Manager Toba Singer, and Library Page Steve Patapoff.

GARDENING FOR CITY KIDS

Recent children's programs have been very successful—with 13 in attendance to hear author Robie Harris speak on "Teens and Sex," and upwards of 50 at the St. Patrick's Day craft and story event sponsored by the Potrero Hill Association. Looking forward to a big turnout for Valarie Revels, an East Bay gardener, who will introduce children to gardening for city kids on Wednesday, April 19 at 7 pm.

VIVA ZAPATA

We will celebrate Cinco de Mayo here by showing the film "Viva Zapata" with Marlon Brando on Wednesday, May 3, at 7 p.m. (If the new branch hours are not yet in effect, we will show it at 6 p.m.)

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER

*Valenzuela, Luisa. "Bedside Manners." A woman recently returns to find democracy restored in her Latin American homeland but remains passively immobilized in bed at a remote country club, trying to ignore the surreal history and politics intruding into her room. With an absurdist sense of homor, Argentine writer Valenzuela lampoons the woes of Latin American countries teetering between military rule and the challenges to it.

*Davis, Lydia. "The End of the Story." While attempting to piece together the details of her affair with a much younger man, a college professor writes in retrospect. Simultaneously with relating her affair, the narrator ponders the path the novel at hand is taking and the process of writing itself. A stunning work.

*Argiri, Laura. "The God in Flight." If a novel's worth can be measured by the power and verity of the emotions it instills, then Argiri's approaches the divine. It concerns an illicit relationship between two men—a young Greek professor and his student - who meet at Yale in the 1880s. A prize-winning sculpture publicizes their breaking of the double taboos against homosexuality and student/faculty relationships.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER FOR TEENS

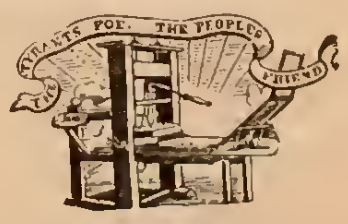
*Frye, Ellen. "Amazon Story Bones." A feminist retelling of the Greek myths taking place 20 years after the fall of Troy.

*Garfunkel, Trudy. "On Wings of Joy: The Story of Ballet from the 16th Century to Today." A well-written and engaging history of ballet that reads like a novel. Includes glossary and bibliography.

*McDaniel, Melissa. "Stephen Hawking: Revolutionary Physicist." Part of the "Great Achievers: Lives of the Physically Challenged" series. Captures the essence and celebrates subject's achievements, rather than his limitations.

*Worth, Richard. "Edith Wharton." Tie-in to Word for Word's recent performance here of "Xingu." This biography shows Wharton in an historical/social context.

Toba Singer
Branch Librarian



MUNI and BART Tix at Nabe

MUNI and BART tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays during office hours, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Senior MUNI : $8.00
Youth MUNI: $8.00
Senior BART: $1.60

For more information, call 826-8080

THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY

If you are searching for a story that ran in the Potrero View a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through December 1991. We will have more recent issues bound in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, check with the librarian who may have them on file.

TEN YEARS AGO

·In The View·

DELAY SOUGHT ON WISCONSIN STREET PROJECT:

Then - Assemblyman Art Agnos asked for additional time to speak to neighbors about a 24-unit apartment project proposed for the cornerof 23rd and Wisconsin Streets. (The City's Planning Commission was due to consider the development at its April 4 meeting.) Some Hill residents were opposing the project because it would have incorporated two commercial sites on the ground floor which they contended would be "notorious loitering places" that would "attract more undesirables to the area."

ST. TERESA'S OFFERS SANCTUARY:

St. Teresa's Church, the only Catholic church in San Francisco to declare itself a sanctuary, announced that "Gloria", a refugee from El Salvador, would be sheltered by the parish. Father Peter Sammon, pastor of St. Teresa's, said that Gloria's presence was to be "a reminder to each of us of our personal responsibility to work for peace and justice in the world."

CONSTRUCTION PLANNED FOR SYNANON SITE:

Plans for a 132-unit complex of townhouses and condominiums at 23rd and Kansas Streets were to be unveiled at a community meeting sometime in late April or early May, according to a spokesman for Grosvenor Properties. The block square site, once a paint factory and then the headquarters for Synanon, had been cleared of toxic wastes except for a century-old incinerator on the Rhode Island Street side of the block. Demolition of the incinerator was set to begin. Meanwhile, residents near the site planted street trees in an attempt to beautify the area.

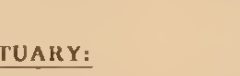
"APRIL FOOL" FOOLS FOOLISH FOLK:

Page 16 of the April, 1984 edition of **The Potrero View** contained stories that announced the imminent auction sale of the Southern Pacific tunnel that ran under Potrero Hill; reported the offer by PG&E to make its surplus telescoping gas storage tank at Army Street near Pennsylvania Avenue into a flexible domed stadium; reported a move by the Lombard Street neighborhood association demanding that the Board of Supervisors "regrade, align and straighten Potrero Hill's serpentine Vermont St." because of its "unfair competitive advantage" to the famed Lombard St. counterpart; and similar April foolishness. The staff was boggled by a number of calls from readers who took the stories seriously.

THIS AND THAT:

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House was preparing to open its childcare center at 824 Carolina St....The Potrero Hill Library was preparing to celebrate the 30th Annual Art Show...The Mayor's Office of Housing and Economic Development was establishing a Potrero Hill office to help residents in applying for three percent home rehabilitation loans...The Farm, the ecology and animal center at Army Street and Potrero Avenue, announced an Easter Vacation Day Camp for children aged six to 10 years...The San Francisco International Film Festival planned to show a Latin-American series at the York Theater on 24th St....Occasional **View** staffer Sally Taylor had a new bicycling book, "Grape Expeditions in France," published... Charles Sabella was elected president of the Potrero Hill Senior Escort Council. Other officers elected: V-Pres. Charlton Chapelle, Sec. Maybelline Hubbard, Treas. Antoinette Lovrin, and Sgt. at Arms Charles Gullo.

— Vas Arnautoff



Potrero Hill Neighborhood House
953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California (415) 826-8080
Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

ON-GOING MEETINGS:

Al-Anon	Thursday, 8.30 p.m.
Alcohol Anonymous	Sun/Mon/Thurs, 8.30 p.m.
Girls/Boys Club Meetings	Mondays, 4.00 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous	Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m.
Omega Boys Club Meetings	Tuesday, 7.30 p.m.

FACILITIES
Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, weddings, workshops and receptions
Bulletin board with employment and event listings
Gymnasium and recreational space
Meeting spaces available for use by community groups
Mini-park

ACTIVITIES/SERVICES:

- After School/Summer Youth Activities
- Arts and Crafts
- Food Distribution
- Gang Prevention
- Girls/Boys Club
- Graffiti Paint Out
- Juvenile Probation
  - Home Supervision
  - Peer Counseling
- MET Theatre Ensemble
- Senior Nutrition Program
- Social Development Center
- Tutoring Program
- Youth Employment
  - MYEEP/SYETP
  - Job Readiness
- ZAP Project (substance abuse day treatment for adolescents)

All services and activities FREE ~ Member agency of the United Way of the Bay Area
The NABE is wheel chair accessible. If you have need for the services of a certified American Sign Language interpreter, or a sound enhancement system, or meeting in an alternative format please contact (415) 826-8080 at least three working days prior

Hill Health Center Invites Visits in Public Health Week

The Caleb G. Clark Potrero Hill Health Center at 1050 Wisconsin Street, has been providing health services, including medical and dental care, to neighborhood residents since 1976.

As primary care providers, doctors and nurses at the Center are there to provide a full range of services to patients, including urgent care visits, routine medical check-ups and the complete span of family planning, pregnancy, delivery and newborn care. As the managed care system gets underway, patients and those who would like to become patients can now sign up for services at Potrero Hill Health Center just as they would at any other HMO, selecting their own physician or nurse practitioner.

However, the Center is much more than just another medical clinic. It is part of a vital system that includes health inspectors, toxics reporting programs, immunization programs, public health laboratories and health promotion programs that serve the whole city of San Francisco, not only those patients who come in for doctor's care.

Public Health Week, April 3-9, is a good time to think about that public health system, and how much it means to all of us, wherever we may go for our medical needs. Public health is about staying healthy, not just treating illness, and about the health of communities and population groups, not only individuals. The San Francisco Dept. of Public Health began in 1849 with responsibility for sanitary conditions and epidemic control for the Port of San Francisco. It now provides a vast variety of services at health centers, outreach clinics, mental health clinics, San Francisco General Hospital, Laguna Honda Hospital and numerous special project sites throughout the city.

It is now well recognized that the major health advances and increased life expectancy of this century are related far more to sanitation, safe water and sewage systems, housing, infection control and nutrition than to the curative powers of medicine. Our public health system works with all the many communities in San Francisco on maintaining healthy environments and informing people of healthy practices. As part of Public Health Services:

* Outbreaks of illness are tracked and reported.

* Low income women receive nutritional assistance from the WIC program.

* Public health nurses come into the home for follow-up and assessment.

* Children are vaccinated.

* Restaurants are inspected.

* Laws and regulations are recommended to governmental agencies.

* Preventive education on issues including AIDS, TB, heart disease, smoking, injury, violence, lice and handwashing, is provided in a wide variety of languages and culturally appropriate formats.

At a time when we face new and reappearing epidemic diseases, environmental problems, and chronic health problems including the consequences of violent acts and other unsafe behaviors, the comprehensive, prevention-oriented approach public health offers is more important than ever.

As part of the celebration of Public Health Week, you are invited to visit the Potrero Hill Health Center on Wednesday, April 5 and Thursday, April 6, and find out more about the Center's services and the larger Public Health system of which it is a part. The mission is nothing less than to "promote the best possible state of physical and mental health for all San Franciscans."

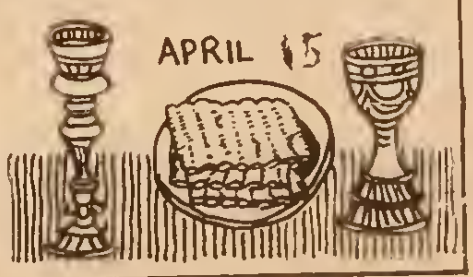
Michael Radetsky
Health Educator
Potrere Hill Health Center

IMPROVE YOUR LOOKS, HEALTH AND POPULARITY.

QUIT SMOKING.
American Heart Association

1ST DAY OF PASSOVER

APRIL 15



POTRERO HILL PARENTS ASSOCIATION

SPRING CELEBRATION

POTLUCK BRUNCH, CRAFTS FOR CHILDREN, EASTER EGG HUNT
FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES - PLEASE JOIN US AT
JACKSON PARK RECREATION CENTER (MARIPOSA AT ARKANSAS)
SATURDAY APRIL 15 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

CALL THE PHPA INFORMATION LINE 282-7425 FOR INFORMATION ON SPECIAL EVENTS FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, PARENTING CLASSES, AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Come sing, dance and celebrate Easter!

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Candlelight Vigil

- Everyone welcome
- Free childcare
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- Our *one* Easter service
- For more information, phone 415-885-2995

Saturday, April 15 at 9pm

Our last vigil at our Gough near Bush location
Next year on Potrero Hill!

Holy Week Services

Good Friday	April 14 at 6:30 pm
Easter Vigil	April 15 at 9 pm
Picnic at Golden Gate Park	April 16 at 11 am

AN INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN THE CHURCH SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Lenten Reconciliation Service
Tuesday April 11, 7:30 PM

Holy Thursday, April 13, 7:30 PM
Mass of the Lord's Supper
Washing of Feet

Good Friday, April 14, 12-3 PM
Liturgy of Good Friday 12-1:30
(Communion Service)
Scripture and Prayer 1:30-3:00
Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday April 15, 7:30 PM
Easter Vigil Liturgy
Light Service
Eucharist

Easter Sunday April 16, 10:00 AM
Easter Mass

ST. TERESA CHURCH
19TH & CONNECTICUT STREETS
285-5272

Emergency Care With Less Waiting

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Within 10 minutes after you arrive, an emergency nurse will check your symptoms. For less urgent health problems – like a sprained ankle, a cold or the flu – you'll be examined by a doctor and on your way, typically, within an hour.

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We're specialists at Emergency Care. We hope you'll never need an emergency room. But if you do, why not go to the best?

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Emergency Department
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ages 13 - 17
TEEN CENTER

services offered at the
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953 De Haro Street, San Francisco:

Arts & Crafts
Basketball
Board Games
Computer Lab
Dance Movement
Field Trips
Gospel Choir
Movies
Sewing Projects
Team Sports
Tutoring/Homework Helper
Video Games
Volleyball
Weekly Teen Council
Weight Room

For information about the NABE TEEN CENTER telephone Joyce Armstrong, Program Coordinator at (415) 826-8080

Caleb G. Clark
Potrero Hill Health Center

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Michael J. Drennan, MD - Director

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8:30-6:30 Wed

Dental: 9-4 M, T, W, F
9-12 Th

Doctor and Dentist on call 24 hours for registered patients

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Appointments encouraged

ECONOMIC, GEOGRAPHIC, RACIAL DIFFERENCES

Crime on Potrero Hill; the Perception and the Numbers

By Michael Mattis

The threat of crime lingers somewhere at the back of most Potrero Hill residents' minds.

"It's rarely a worry but always a concern," says Potrero mother Alison Heath. Heath and her husband live with their three-year-old son, James, in a Mississippi Street flat near 18th Street, on the Hill's north slope. "Potrero Hill is a relatively safe area compared to other parts of the city," she says, but notes that the Hill is a divided neighborhood. "We realize that we live on a divided Hill and I get nervous when I'm on the south side of 20th Street. I wouldn't walk there at night."

The division that Heath refers to is a north-south line roughly defined by 23rd Street. On Heath's north slope stand the Victorian and Edwardian houses and cottages made famous in the 1970s television show "The Streets of San Francisco." But on the south side, cascading down the Hill toward Bayview, are a series of grim-looking public housing units.

While the north slope is ethnically mixed, it remains predominantly white and financially comfortable. The south slope, with its public housing, is mostly poor and black. The public housing is considered by many north slope residents to be the hub of the district's criminal activity.

"Subliminally," says three-year resident Paul Minton, when asked about neighborhood crime, "I think about it all the time."

Minton, whose car has been boosted twice and whose wife has had her purse snatched from her on the steps of their Connecticut Street home, believes that economic differences represented by the north-south division are at the heart of the neighborhood's crime problem.

"It's economically motivated," says Minton. "The principal risk is that there are a lot of people who want what you have. Even though they may not intend physical harm, you can get hurt if you get in their way."

The economic division Minton suggests is shown in census data. According to 1990 figures, whites in the two census tracks that constitute Potrero Hill have an average per capita income of $23,500 per year, more than twice that of African-Americans at $8,400.

Like many Hill residents, Jude Deckenbach has a realistic attitude toward crime. "We live in a city and anything can happen anywhere," says Deckenbach." I don't let my four-year-old play in the front yard without me there, but I don't think Potrero Hill is any worse than any other neighborhood."

Deckenbach says she thinks her block, Connecticut between 18th and 19th Streets, has actually become safer in the past year. "There used to be a lot of car break-ins here," she says. "This street is on a major bus line and kids would jump off and steal stereos."

Deckenbach attributes the slowdown in break-ins to the Neighborhood Watch Block Safety Program to which she and many of her neighbors belong. Statistics released by the police department's Data Processing Unit this January confirm Deckenbach's belief; reported auto-boostings dropped by 6.7 percent in the Potrero Station District, which covers the Hill plus Bayview and Hunter's Point.

Although they are down, auto-boostings continue to be a focus of neighborhood concern. "Auto-boosting is by far the most reported crime on the Hill," confirms Officer Dorothy Shurtleff of Potrero Station. "Second is automobile theft and third is street robberies." Shurtleff urges residents to be alert and work with their beat officers. "Residents should work with police as a team," she says.

"A lot of it is just bored kids who somehow get the impression that crimes are a cool thing to do," says Nadia Robinson. She, like others on the Hill, attribute a good deal of neighborhood crime to minors. But, she notes: "Poverty and drugs have a lot to do with it, too."

Starr Williams, who lives in the Potrero Terrace public housing, agrees that boredom, poverty and drugs are a problem. But she believes that economic opportunities for black youth have gotten more scarce. "Young people hang out," says Williams, "and they hang out because there's nothing for them to do. Give these people something to do — a job or trade or something — then they won't hang out like that.

"Young black men and women up here get discouraged," says Williams, lamenting her community's lack of positive role models. "They don't have jobs and they don't have leaders."

Although Williams has lived in public housing for nearly 15 years and has seen her share of strife, including the shooting death of her nephew, she says she isn't frightened. Most trouble in public housing, like drugs and gangs, she says, is brought in from outside, from other parts of the city. "Anything can happen wherever you go. I could live on the top of Nob Hill and something could happen."

The majority of Hill-dwellers interviewed believe crime in general has flattened out in recent years or at least has not become worse. In fact, crime was down 11.7 percent in 1994 over 1993 citywide, according to the January SFPD report. In the Potrero District crime dropped 12.5 percent, with burglaries showing the biggest decline, down 25.6 percent. Auto-theft also showed significant decline, down 16.2 percent and larceny, which includes bicycle theft, purse-snatching and shoplifting was down 9.1 percent. All other categories also showed some decline, according to the report.

Although robberies on the street showed only a modest 2.4 percent decline for the district as a whole in 1994, they were down significantly for Potrero Hill in January of this year from January last year, according to statistics provided by Potrero Police Captain Tim Hettrick. "We follow the numbers," says Hettrick, "and if we notice heavy activity on a certain corner or street, we target that area."

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Photos by Anne L. Lehman of people and places in the mountains of Kirghizstan in Central Asia are on exhibit at Farley's, 1315 - 18th St., through April 30. A Reception for the artist takes place April 4, 8-10 p.m.

Mary Ansel, City Native, Historian, Oldest Hill Resident, Dies at 97

At the age of 97, Mary Ansel, a resident of Potrero Hill and a native of San Francisco, left our midst on February 5. She was the oldest resident of the Hill, and one of the longest survivors in the city from the Slovenian Womens' Union. She had also been a member and officer of the Potrero Boosters and Merchants Association and a life-time member of the Slovenian American Fraternal and Benefit Society.

She had a keen political sense, coupled with an avid love for history. To the end of her life, she remembered dates and events in people's lives on Potrero Hill, which gave her the distinction of being historian not only to her relatives, but to neighbors as well.

Mary Ansel was a life-time care giver to her parents and to her husband, Joseph, and was an inspiration to her nieces and nephews, always interested in them and ready to listen. She was especially proud of her Slovenian heritage and never forgot her mother tongue nor the songs her mother taught her, going back some 130 years to the old country.

She will be sorely missed by her children and adored neices and nephews, her sister Margaret, and above all by her beloved sister, Matilda Kambic.

—Donald Kambic

April Youth Activities at the Nabe

SUMMER JOBS: Summer job employment opportunities for young residents of Potrero Hill ages 14-21 will be available beginning in April. This program, underwritten by the Private Industry Council, is administered by Nabe staff. For applications and more information contact Youth Activities Coordinator Joyce Armstrong.

YOUTH CHOIR: The Nabe's Youth Choir is seeking teens who enjoy singing and performing. The choir, directed by Larry Byes, has appeared in programs at the Nabe, at Glide Memorial, and other agencies throughout the city.

ARTS AND CRAFTS: Art instructor Shannon Morris has entered more than a dozen works of art from participants in the Nabe's art program at the Potrero Library's 40th Annual Artists Show opening in April. (Morris' personal art works are currently on view at Art Explosions, 17th and Hampshire Streets.)

The Neighborhood House is located at 953 De Haro St. For information call 826-8080.

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The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Girls Club sponsors a Graffiti Paint Out and Clean Up at the Potrero Hill Terrace and Annex two Saturdays a month, and volunteers from the community are always welcome to help in this Community Pride event. It is co-sponsored by the S.F. Housing Authority, Potrero Hill Resident Management Corp., and the Neighborhood House, and other community organizations donate services and supplies. The next work sessions will be April 15 and 22, meeting at 9 a.m. sharp at 1095 Connecticut St. Work usually ends at 1 p.m. with a hearty lunch. For more info call Joyce Armstrong at 826-8080.

•

Remember, it doesn't have to cost much to see some of the finest art collections in S.F. The M.H. De Young Museum in Golden Gate Park offers free admission all day and most of the evening on the first Wednesday of each month. The special exhibit there is "Monet: Late Paintings of Giverny from the Musee Marmottan." Also, the De Young is featuring an exhibition of major artifacts related to the United Nations founding conference. "San Francisco Revisited: The Founding of the United Nations" will be on view from April 25 through June 25, 1995. The opening of the exhibition is a prelude to a series of commemorative city-wide programs that will continue through June.

•

Beginning April 26, San Francisco Women Against Rape will hold its Spring rape crisis counselor training. For information on how to volunteer call Jamie at 861-2024.

•

If you are interested in helping out with the environment but just don't know where to begin, the Green City Volunteer Network can help. They list more than 320 organizations working on ecology issues in the Bay Area, and all of them can use volunteers. Call 285-6556 and ask for Maggie.

•

Make*A*Circus is now accepting applications for the Teen Apprentice Program Spring session from April 18-June 8. Applications will be accepted until April 28. Call 776-8470, or write to the Circus, Ft. Mason Center, Bldg. D. S.F. 94123.

•

The Pain Clinical Research Center at UCSF is conducting research studies on chronic neuropathic pain and is looking for participants to join its research studies. In order to qualify for the study, participants must have one of a series of chronic pain problems and be more than 18 years old, in stable physical and mental health, able to read English, and must not have an immune system disorder. For information, on types of chronic pain, or any other questions, call 476-0418.

•

St. Vincent de Paul Society is seeking volunteers to help ensure the success of Gimme Shelter, its annual 5k/1k run and walk to be held on Sunday, April 9. To volunteer call 379-7813. Training will be provided, as will refreshments and good company.

•

The lively music and dances of Tahiti, Samoa, Hawaii and the Maori of New Zealand will fill the stage of the Diego Rivera Theatre at City College of S.F., at noon on Wed., April 5. Admission is free and open to the public. For more info call 239-3580.

•

Food Not Bombs will hold a free concert — Soupstock '95 — on April 29, from noon-6, at the Bandshell in Golden Gate Park, to celebrate their 15th anniversary. The community is invited to set up information and craft tables at the event.

•

With its theme of liberation, Passover is the most widely celebrated of any Jewish holiday. So, when the eight-day festival begins at sunset on Friday, April 14, Jews throughout the world will sit down with family and friends to begin the holiday traditionally with a Seder, a meal accompanied by the telling of the story of deliverance. Many local groups and congregations hold community Seders tailored to the lifestyles or beliefs of their members, including unique Seders for interfaith families, singles, feminists, vegetarians and secular Jews. A list of where to find these Seders can be obtained from Jewish Community Information and Referral, 777-4545.

•

On April 29 the S.F. SPCA will host an all-day, dog-themed film festival for kids. In addition to movies, there will be demonstrations, presentations, raffle drawings and more. Admission is free, but children must be accompanied by an adult. For info and movie schedule call 554-3050.

•

If anyone is interested in starting a dog owners group on the Hill, call Sherri and Bosco at 641-1331. To keep the Hill dog friendly and foxtail free, and to have safe walking places for dogs, a group should be organized, they say.

•

The ever-popular Potrero Hill artist Joe Sam, will show in a new exhibit at Bomani Gallery, 251 Post St., 6th floor, beginning April 8, with a reception and talk from 3-6 p.m. that day. Call the gallery at 296-8643 for more details.

•

Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco is seeking volunteer hairstylists and barbers to offer haircuts to patients with AIDS, cancer and other illnesses that limit life expectancy. Please call Jeri Lynn, 750-6800 ext. 21699 for more info.

•

KQED-TV, Channel 9, marks Days of Remembrance, in commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust, with special programs through the month of April: "Passover: Traditions of Freedom (April 16, 11 p.m.); "Holocaust Survivors Remember (April 25, 11 p.m.); "We Were There: Jewish Liberators of the Nazi Concentration Camps" (April 26, 10:30 p.m.); and "A Day in the Warsaw Ghetto: A Birthday Trip to Hell" (April 30, 11:30 p.m.).

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Library Exhibit Shows Hill Artists During April

Dozens of works by artists who live on Potrero Hill will be on exhibit at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 - 20th St. until April 29.

They are part of the 40th Annual Hill Artists' Show, which was slated to open with a reception on April 1 from 6:30 p.m. on.

This year for the first time coinciding with the adult show, there will be works by Hill children on display in the Potrero Branch's children's room.

LOOK AT ME, TALK TO ME

Clients of the Social Development Center at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House will present a program of music and dance Wednesday, April 12 at 11 a.m. at the facility at 953 De Haro St. The performance is directed by Artist in Residence Kim Epitano seen in photo above with accordian between two of the devclopmentally disabled clients playing harmonicas. Special guest artists Karen Ezekiel and Guthrie Morgan will nssist in the performance. Refreshments will be served and all are welcome. Call 826-8080 for more information.

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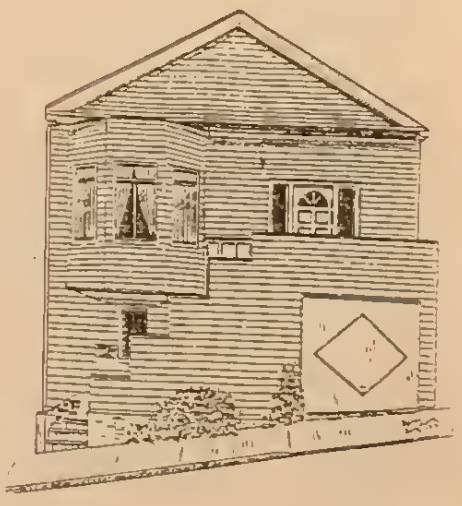

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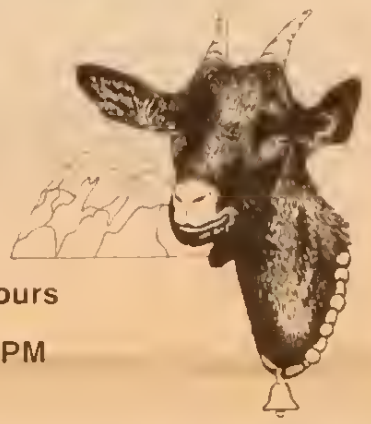

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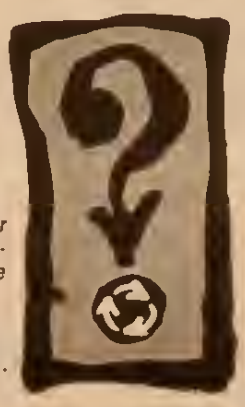

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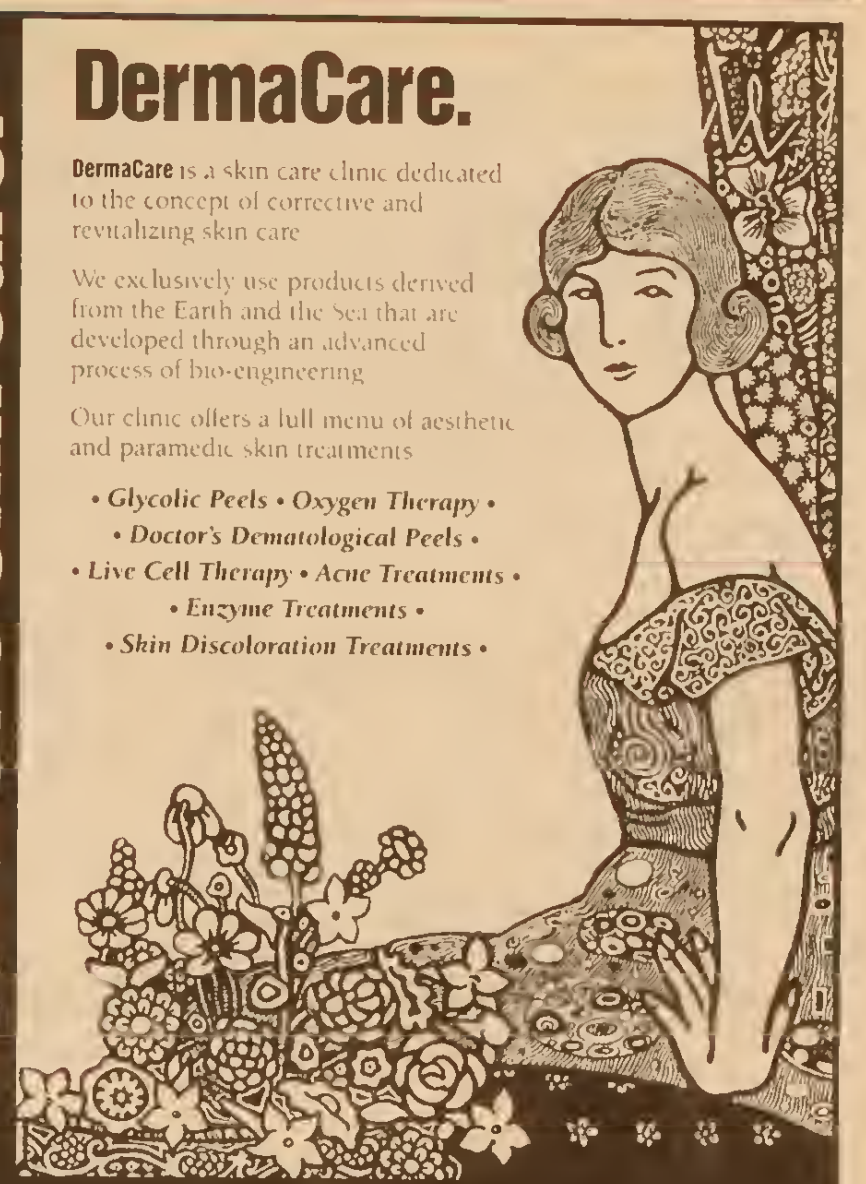

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